

THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—The announcement in one and another journal that the venerable John Quincy Adams, has resolved or promised to support the Clerk of the last and preceding House for reelection, impels us to some reflections, which may as well be uttered.

Mr. B. B. French, the Clerk in question, is, we believe, an industrious, pleasant, affable officer, and especially affable to Whigs since it became highly probable that he would constitute a majority in the next House. But he was made Clerk, not for his capacity, nor his capacity, for his Whig proclivities had these in equal measure, but primarily for his Loco-Focoism. He had for many years before been an active and useful servant of his party; and when it regained the control of the House, the Whig Clerk was tipped out and Mr. French rewarded with his place; neither the Whigs nor their Clerk whining nor grumbling at the reverse. It was their fortune, and they took it the natural way.

The Clerkship of the House is an office of large pecuniary patronage and political power. In efficient hands, like Mr. French's, it will exert an important influence, one way or the other, on the approaching Presidential Election. The incumbent belongs to the bitterest and worst school of Loco-Focoism—the New Hampshire school—a school which does not see in the party differences of our time honest diversities of opinion as to the best mode of promoting the public welfare, but which hates a Whig as though he were a rattlesnake— which thinks no means unjustifiable by which we can be worsted and trampled on—and which delights in inflaming the passions of the ignorant and degraded by heaping upon us every calumnious accusation, every opprobrious epithet, that can be raked from imaginations fertile in that sort of ingenuity.

Mr. Speaker's "exclamation" a "moral turpitude,"—a "lack of patriotic virtue." His error was rather constitutional than willful—arguing infirmity of temper rather than depravity of heart. Why does not our correspondent himself state the essential facts if he wishes to controvert the judgment we incidentally passed upon them?

As we understand the case—and we speak only from memory—some sailors, belonging to one of our National vessels in port, who were on shore in Rio Janeiro, became intoxicated, for they supposed to be so, and in this state committed some offence, or threatened some outrage, on other persons in the streets. The police endeavored to arrest the offenders, but just then some officers of our vessel came along, and interposed with drawn weapons to prevent an arrest. Being outnumbered and overpowered, the offenders were imprisoned, and then Mr. Ambassador Wise stepped forward and demanded their instant release, and ordering our ship or ships to be ready to fire on the town in case his demand should not be complied with. The Brazilian Government hereupon released the prisoners, and forwarded a statement of the whole affair to its Minister at Washington, to be laid before the President and Cabinet. Soon after we hear that Mr. Wise is coming home—at his own request, of course—and Mr. Tod is appointed to take his place, and when Mr. Tod reaches Rio Janeiro and is presented to the Emperor, he takes occasion to pass a direct censure on Mr. Wise's course, and virtually promises to behave better himself. Now this speech strikes us as exceedingly timely, unadvised, and out of place, we heartily wish Mr. Tod had not made it, but it does seem to us in creditable that he, who has been familiar with the material facts, should have made any humiliating apology unless Mr. Wise had been clearly in the wrong.

The undivided supremacy of each Government within its own territory is the first principle of International law. If the Police of Rio Janeiro had injured or insulted our officers, it was a matter to be settled between the two Governments, and not at all by excommunicating them at the mere nod of Henry A. Wise.

We think our correspondent might have said more without using so many words. If he has anything further to offer, we will thank him to state facts relevant to the main issue, and deal less in sweeping assertions concerning the outrages of the Brazilians, and the exemplary behavior of Mr. Wise.

[Ed. Tribune.]

NEW-YORK ELECTION.
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